

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-16 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 3-10, and 13 are amended, Claim 2 is cancelled, and new Claims 14-16 are added.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 because of antecedent informalities. Applicants amend claim 10 to delete the limitation “the monitoring program” in line 2 of the claim. Please see Listing of Claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is now solicited.

Claims 1-9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Maeda et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,791,703). Claims 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Maeda et al* in view of *Hurwitz* (U.S. Patent No. 6,256,669). It is believed that the Listing of Claims on page 2 distinguishes over the prior art for the following reasons.

Maeda et al does not teach or suggest a printing method with the following limitations:

(1) “creating a print control number and print format information of a Web page at a computer”; (2) “storing the print information and the image data being connected to each other in a memory of the printer”, and (3) “printing the image data stored in the memory of the printer by executing a print command from the computer, the image data being specified by the print control” [claim 1].

Rather, *Maeda et al* teaches a printing method wherein when a print request command is received from the external client terminal 9 via the network interface 4, the CPU 122 transmits to the formatter 6 PDL (Page Description Language) the data that are received at the same time. The PDL data are developed into image data by the formatter 6, and the image data are transmitted to the data processor 124 and then to the printer 8, whereat they are printed.

An objective of the above-identified application is to reduce the “wait” time for a user to obtain a desired printed output after a user presses the print button. The above-identified

application accomplishes this objective, in part, by a method wherein the computer assigns the control number to a Web page which is now being browsed (irrespective of whether the Web page is to be printed or not) and transmits the print information of the Web page to the printer, and the printer converts the Web page data included in the print information into imaging data. Thereafter, when the computer transmits a print execution command with the control number, the printer prints the imaging data corresponding to the control number. As a result, a browsing user of the Web page can obtain a printed output without waiting for a long time after the print command is transmitted [see page 3, line 21 – page 4, line 14].

On the other hand, the printing method disclosed in *Maeda et al* requires a wait because processes in the printer (namely, receiving, analyzing, and converting data) are commenced when a print request command is received from the external client terminal. Thus, the method disclosed in *Maeda et al* will suffer the same problems discussed in the Background of the Invention [see page 2, line 19 – page 3, line 11].

As claims 3-6 and 10-12 depend from claim 1, they should likewise be allowable in light of the above comments in regard to the §103 rejection by nature of their dependency. Moreover, for the reasons discussed above, claim 13 should likewise be allowable.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Maeda et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,791,703). Claim 7 has been amended. The amended claim does not introduce new matter. Support for the amended claim can be found on page 9, lines 9-11 of the specification. It is believed that the Listing of Claims on page 2 distinguishes over the art because, in part, because *Maeda et al* fails to teach or suggest a monitoring program that simultaneously starts operation with a launching of the WWW browser.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Maeda et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,791,703). Claim 8 has been amended. The amended claim does not

introduce new matter. Support for the amended claim can be found on page 15, lines 16-20 of the specification. It is believed that the Listing of Claims on page 2 distinguishes over the art for at least the following reasons.

Maeda et al fails to teach or suggest “a control portion that accesses a Web page based upon an address of the Web page that is provided from outside, obtains data, and converts in advance the data into imaging data...” [claim 8]. Instead, *Maeda* teaches a device wherein, “when a print request command is received from the external client terminal 9 via the network interface 4, the CPU 122 transmits to the formatter 6 PDL the data that are received at the same time. The PDL data are developed into image data by the formatter 6, and the image data are transmitted to the data processor 124 and then to the printer 8, where they are printed” [column 5, lines 59-67].

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Maeda et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,791,703). Claim 9 has been amended. The amended claim does not introduce new matter. Support for the amended claim can be found on page 9, lines 9-11 of the specification. It is believed that the Listing of Claims on page 2 distinguishes over the art because, in part, because *Maeda et al* fails to teach or suggest a monitoring program that simultaneously starts operation with a launching of the WWW browser.

Claim 14 is added to recite a printing method, wherein the image data to be printed is specified with the print control number from the computer or by imputing the print control number into the printer directly.

Claim 15 is added to recite a printing method, wherein the print format information can be changed by a user before the image is printed.

Claim 16 is added to recite a printing method, wherein a process of monitoring starts with a launching of the WWW browser.

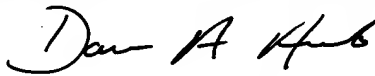
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Darrin A. Auito
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 56,024
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

DAA:ns

Q:\2001\010032\010032 Amendment to 11-4-04 OA.doc